

Speech of William Mays/Family Member

The World War 1 soldier that I am going to describe was a family member, William Henry John Mays. When William joined the Australian Imperial Force, on the 29th of August 1915 he told the Commanding Officer that he was 18, when really he was only 15, so he could fight in the war, for his country. His service number was 2644, he was on the 15th Brigade and his rank was private W.H.J Mays. He was 5 foot 5 inches in height and had a chest measurement of 33/36 inches. Mays had blue eyes, brown hair and had a fresh complexion. He was from Melbourne, Victoria and his full name was William Henry John Mays, and was an early family member of mine. On the 19th of July, 1916, as a member of the 60th Battalion, whilst fighting in Fromelles, France on the Western Front, William was considered missing and later classed as 'Killed in Action' - His body was never found - William never returned home.